

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action of June 6, 2007. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that this application contains allowable subject matter. Claims 3-10 and 12-19 were pending in this application. Claim 9 is cancelled, without prejudice. Claim 3 is amended to overcome a rejection under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112. New claim 20 is added, corresponding to claim 3, but reciting the language “a trilayer structure comprising a first skin layer ..., a second skin layer ..., and a core” in place of the language “a trilayer structure consisting of a first skin layer ..., a second skin layer ..., and a core” in claim 3. No new subject matter is introduced by this Amendment. Entry of this Amendment, in order to place the application into condition for allowance or into better condition for appeal, is earnestly solicited. With this Amendment, claims 3-8, 10, and 12-20 are pending in the application, of which claims 6-8 and 10 stand withdrawn from consideration.

Formal rejection

Claims 3-5 and 12-19 were rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 as failing to define the invention properly. Office Action, page 3. This rejection was based upon lack of proper antecedent basis and improper dependency. The claims as amended herein overcome all of the issues noted by the Examiner in connection with this rejection. Accordingly, this ground of rejection does not apply to any of the claims presently before the Examiner.

Restriction requirement

As a basis for the requirement for restriction, the Examiner argued that “the random

copolymer of Group I comprises the same propylene copolymers as the prior art copolymers, e.g. Nakano". Office Action, page 2. In the claims as amended, the Nakano copolymers are clearly excluded from the scope of Applicants' claims. Accordingly, the Examiner's stated basis for the restriction requirement no longer applies. Moreover, method claims 6-8 and 10 are now limited to a method for preparing a propylene polymer according to any one of claims 3, 4, 5, 14, and 15. Thus, the method claims herein have a scope coextensive with the claims to products made by the claimed methods. All of the claims herein involve a single special technical feature – the three-layer propylene polymer particle. Accordingly, all of claims 3-8, 10, and 12-20 in their present form have *unity of invention* in accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, and the requirement for restriction should be withdrawn.

Clarification

With regard to the statement at the bottom of page 2 of the Office Action, Applicants provide the following remarks: The invention of this application involves propylene copolymer particles comprising three layers L1, L2, and L3. The processes to form each layer L1, L2, and L3 correspond respectively to P1, P2, and P3. The first process P1 is a process to form a polyethylene layer (outer layer L1). The second process P2 is a process to form a polypropylene layer (middle layer L2). P3 is the third process, to form a propylene homo- or co-polymer (core L3). The working examples show the processes successively performing P1, P2, and P3. Accordingly, the propylene copolymer particles shown in the working examples are the same propylene copolymer particles as the three-layered particles in the claims. It is noted that in the formation of polymer particles, the outer layer is produced first since the production center of the catalyst is at the core of the polymer particle.

Contact information

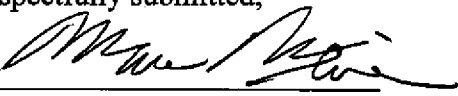
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Richard Gallagher (Registration No. 28,781) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Conditional fee authorization

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
RC Marc S. Weiner
Registration No.: 32,181
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant